

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, the claims in the application are claims 1-6, 8-9.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the language of claim 7 and amended claim 8 to be in independent form. No new matter has been added. Claim 7 has been cancelled accordingly. In addition, claims 10-24 have been cancelled without prejudice and without abandonment of the subject matter thereof.

Applicants have amended claims 3-4 and 6 to provide proper antecedent basis.

Rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller et al. U.S. Patent Number 6,257,693 ("Miller"). In response to the rejection, Applicants submit the following.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method for processing a print job that requires, *inter alia*, modifying a raster operation function to have fewer variables than originally specified by said print job, wherein the *function includes two of a destination variable, an object variable and an ink variable*, and the modifying further including *reducing the function to a single variable*. By reducing a raster operation function having two variables to a function having a single variable, the claimed invention advantageously allows for reducing processing and memory requirements.

In contrast, Miller shows no such variable reduction. Applicants respectfully submit that the final Office Action fails to identify two variables, much less two variables of a destination variable, an object variable and an ink variable. The particular passage cited in the final Office Action, column 5, lines 18-28, does not in any way mention a destination variable or object variable. Without any showing in Miller of a function having two of a destination variable, object variable and ink variable, it cannot be said that Miller shows a two variable function that is modified to be a one variable function.¹

¹ Reference in the final Office Action of Miller showing reducing two different black colors (represented in this case as the ink variable) to one halftone black color (the

In absence of any showing in Miller of a reduction of a two variable function to a single variable function as claimed, claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be unanticipated by Miller.

Similarly, claim 8 as amended recites modifying a raster operation function to have fewer variables than originally specified by a print job, wherein the function includes one of a destination variable, an object variable and an ink variable, said modifying further including *reducing the function to no variable*. In Miller, reference is made in the final Office Action of variable reduction. On the contrary, the passage recited in the final Office Action as showing variable reduction is not a reduction of a function to no variables because the ink (color) variable remains. As a result, it cannot be said that Miller in any way shows modifying a function to be a no-variable function as claimed. Accordingly, claim 8 is believed to be unanticipated by Miller.

Conclusion

Applicant asserts that in light of the foregoing remarks this application is in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in the event the Examiner would like to discuss the merits of the application or this response.

If there are any other fees not accounted for above, including fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for additional claims, the assignee of present application, Lexmark International, Inc., hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any such fees, including any extension of time fees, to the account of Lexmark International, Inc., Deposit Account No. 12-1213.

same ink variable) does not amount to a reduction of the ink variable. Miller shows no elimination of the ink variable.

Respectfully submitted,

/William F. Esser/

William F. Esser
Registration No. 38,053
Lexmark International, Inc.
Intellectual Property Law Department
740 West New Circle Road
Bldg. 082-1
Lexington, KY 40550
Date: _4/6/09